

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank Examiner Blake for taking the time to discuss this case with the Applicant's representative during a telephone interview conducted on June 9, 2005. During the interview, the Applicant agreed to make the corrections to the drawings outlined on page 2 of the Office Action, and all but one of the changes to the specification outlined on page 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, with respect to the changes to the application, the missing reference numeral 62 has been added to Figure 3 and the specification was amended to include reference numerals 82 and 141 which were inadvertently omitted. With respect to the suggested changes to the specification, the Applicant submits that the phrase "positioned at or about" on page 10, line 2 is more accurate than "positioned at or above." Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is requested. In addition, claim 7 has been amended to overcome a typographical error so as to distinctly point out and more particularly claim the present invention. Finally, in accordance with the restriction requirement presented by the Examiner, claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled. The remaining restricted claims remain in the case pending the outcome of a petition filed by the Applicant.

During the interview, the Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the rejections pertaining to claims 2, 3, 7 and 10. With respect to claim 3, which stated that the centering member is constituted by a recess provided along the head cap, it was agreed to change the word "along" to "in" in order to more clearly define that the recess is provided in the head cap itself.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koepfinger (U.S. Patent No. 3,062,299). Koepfinger teaches a grass edger for a sprinkler head having a head member 10 interconnected to a handle 8. A centering element 40 extends through head member 8 into a housing defined by handle 8. Centering element 40 extends about a sprinkler head 48 to position a cutting blade 50 relative to the sprinkler head. Claim 7 requires a cutting head system including a centering element housing having a first end secured to a head member, a second end

and a hollow cylindrical main body portion extending therebetween. In accordance with the Applicant's invention, the centering element housing extends into the head member. The Examiner agreed that this particular feature would distinguish the present invention from the Koepfinger reference. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended claim 7 to recite that the cutting head system includes a centering element housing extending into the head member, with the centering element housing having a first end secured to the head member, a second end, and a hollow cylindrical main body portion extending therebetween. This feature has also been incorporated into claim 2 to more clearly define the present invention. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 7, as amended, patentably define the present invention over the prior art of record and thus should be in condition for allowance. It should also be noted that a corresponding change was made to combination claim 1. At this point, it should be recognized that, given claim 1 recites all the requirements of claim 2 plus additional limitations, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is also allowable over the prior art of record.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koepfinger as applied to claim 2 and further in view of Paliani (U.S. Patent No. 3,565,179). Paliani discloses a sod trimming device for a sprinkler. The trimming device includes a disk-shaped holder or head member 1 secured to a handle H and is provided with a series of concentric re-entrant grooves 2, 3 and 3A into which circular cutting blades 5 and 6 are adapted to be secured by screw members 9.

Claim 10, as originally presented, defines a cutting element holder having a first edge portion detachably secured to a head member and a second edge portion defining a cutting blade receiving recess. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the present invention requires the presence of a head member, a cutting element holder detachably secured to the head member and a cutting blade secured in a cutting blade receiving recess of the cutting element holder. The prior art combination proposed by the Examiner would, at best, establish a trimmer having a head member (taken from the Paliani reference) secured to handle 8 of the Koepfinger reference, with the blade from

the Koepfinger reference mounted in the concentric re-entrant grooves of the Paliani head member. The Applicant respectfully submits that this combination would still lack the recited cutting element holder that is detachably secured to the head member. Therefore, claim 10 recites structure which is distinguished from the prior art. In order to capture this particular feature, a new claim 22 has been added which basically represents a combination of original claims 2 and 10. A new claim 23 was also added, to depend from claim 22, so as to define that the centering member is constituted by a recess provided in the head cap.

Based on the above remarks and the amendments to the claims, drawings and specification, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentably defined over the prior art of record such that allowance of all the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding the allowance of this application, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below if it would further expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 3 and 4. In Figure 3, previously omitted reference numeral 62 has been added and incorrectly labeled element 58 has been correctly labeled. In Figure 4, duplicate reference numeral 86 has been removed.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 2

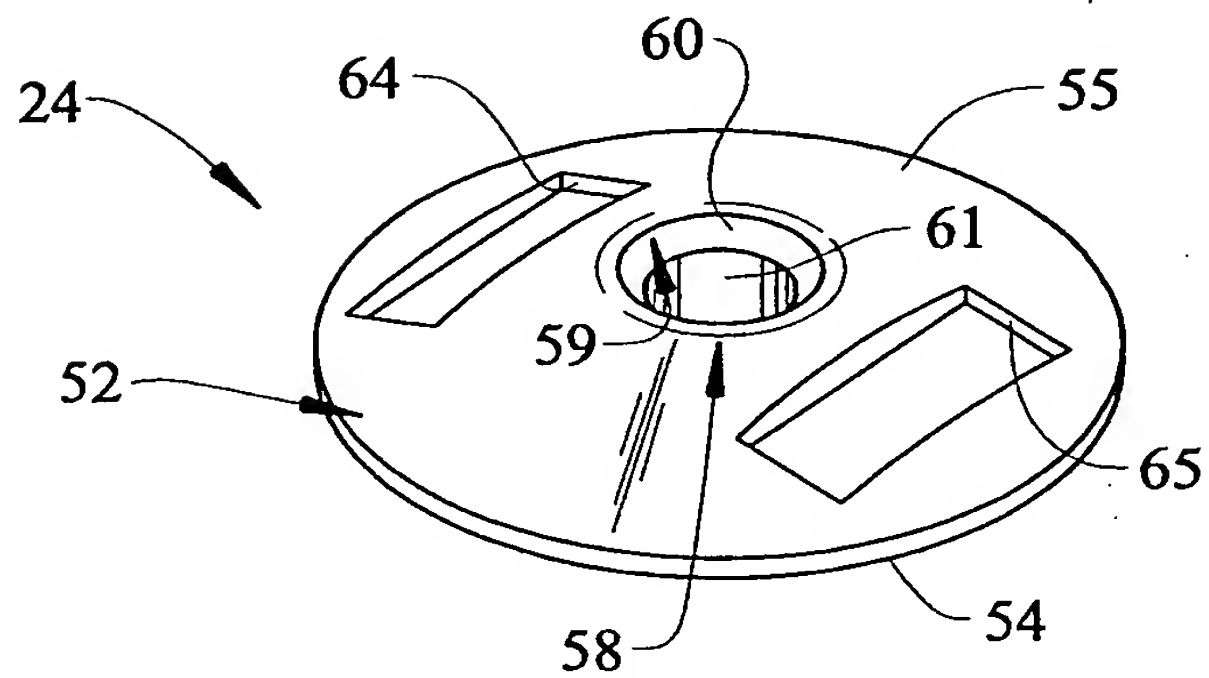


FIG. 3

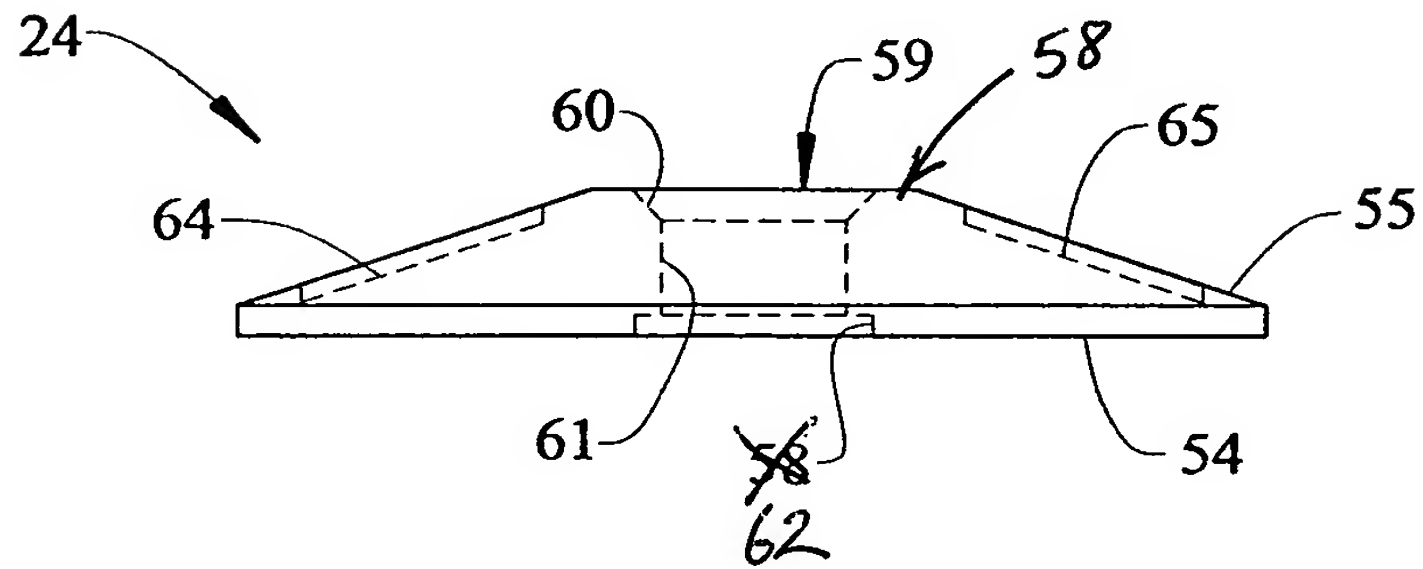


FIG. 4

